

Remarks

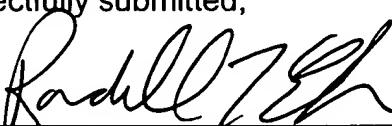
Associated with the RCE filed concurrently herewith please enter the Amendment B After Final filed by facsimile January 24, 2003 (a courtesy copy attached). The Amendment B After Final filed January 24, 2003 has so far not been entered or acted upon by the Patent Office.

This Supplement to Amendment B associated with the RCE filed concurrently herewith corrects claim 20 for antecedent basis clarity and adds new claims 27-32 which describe further patentable inventions.

The invention provides a trailer-mounted crane apparatus which includes a trailer supported on wheels from the ground. A crane is mounted at a central location of the trailer and includes a crane arm that is extendable outwardly of the trailer. Unlike cranes which use a crane mounted on an end or outside a lateral edge of the trailer, the crane of the present invention minimizes the footprint of the crane to be more useable in close quarters.

By minimizing the footprint, the trailer-mounted crane can be configured of a sufficiently light weight to be usable upon delicate ground surfaces, such as are present on a golf course, without damaging the surfaces, such as might occur using a larger, heavier crane.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In The Claims:

Please amend claim 20 as follows:

20. (Amended) The mobile crane apparatus according to claim 18 [19], further comprising:

a control panel for said hydraulic driver power unit mounted on said trailer; [and]

an operator seat supported from said trailer and arranged to face said control panel;

a hydraulic crane power unit for supplying pressurized hydraulic fluid to said crane,

wherein said hydraulic [crane] driver power unit is mounted on said trailer in front of said crane center post, and said control panel and said operator seat are mounted on said trailer in front of said hydraulic crane power unit and laterally of said crane center post, and said hydraulic [crane] driver power unit is mounted on said trailer in front of said crane center post.

Please add claims 27 - 32:

27. (New) A compact mobile crane apparatus configured having a low tire ground contact pressure for use on golf courses for landscaping, comprising:

a trailer having an axle, said trailer supported on at least one pair of road transportation wheels mounted on said axle; and

a hydraulically operated crane having a center post and a boom, said center post supported to extend upwardly from a central location of said trailer, and said boom extendable outwardly from said center post, said center post being located substantially equidistant from said wheels.

28. (New) The compact mobile crane apparatus according to claim 27, wherein:

    said trailer comprises a compact, single axle trailer having a substantially rectangular platform having four corners and a towing hitch assembly coupled to said platform and extending from a front end thereof; and  
    said apparatus further comprises four outriggers coupled to said platform, each outrigger located adjacent to a respective one of said four corners of the rectangular platform, said outriggers deployable to support said platform from grade at said four corners, said center post being located substantially equidistant to each outrigger.

29. (New) The compact mobile crane apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising a vibratory sheet pile driver suspended from said boom, and said mobile crane apparatus further comprises a hydraulic driver power unit mounted on said trailer for driving said vibratory sheet pile driver.

30. (New) The compact mobile crane apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

a control panel for said hydraulic driver power unit mounted on said trailer;

an operator seat supported from said trailer and arranged to face said control panel;

a hydraulic crane power unit for supplying pressurized hydraulic fluid to said crane,

wherein said hydraulic driver power unit is mounted on said trailer in front of said crane center post, and said control panel and said operator seat are mounted on said trailer in front of said hydraulic crane power unit and laterally of said crane center post, and said hydraulic driver power unit is mounted on said trailer in front of said crane center post.

31. (New) The compact mobile crane apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said hydraulically operated crane comprises about 50% of the total weight of said mobile crane apparatus.

32. (New) The compact mobile crane apparatus according to claim 27 wherein said hydraulically operated crane comprises an elongated hydraulic cylinder extending longitudinally along said trailer, said elongated hydraulic cylinder fastened to said trailer, and said center post is carried by said elongated hydraulic cylinder.